AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS (IF ANY)

The status of the claims, including any amendments, is shown as follows.

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1.   (Currently Amended) A trade finance automation system, comprising:
an accounts receivable database receiving and storing invoices issued by one or more prescribed vendors for sales made to specified buyers;
a credit limits database containing various credit limits applicable to

10   buyers' accounts receivables that are subject to existing third party financing, the credit limits dictated by factors including terms of said third party financing;

a credit limits tester performing substantially real time checking of buyers' invoices in the accounts receivable database to ensure compliance

15   with the credit limits set forth in the credit limits database for said buyers.
~~a credit limits database for providing certain accounts receivable financing limit information related to a particular pre-qualified buyer of a manufacturer, trader, or exporter;~~
~~an invoice data entry system that accesses the credit limits database~~

20   ~~and flags an individual invoice to said particular pre-qualified buyer according to credit limits and accounts receivable financing limits information; and~~
~~an accounts receivable database connected to receive said individual invoice;~~
~~wherein, if said individual invoice in the accounts receivable database~~

25   ~~meets various criteria and is sold to or financed by a financial institution, the credit limits database is automatically adjusted to reflect an open account to said particular pre-qualified buyer.~~

2.   (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, <u>wherein the credit limits</u>

30   <u>include credit limits of at least one of the following types: amount of account</u>
<u>receivables purchased, credit insurance policy terms, finance agreement</u>
<u>terms.</u>
third party financing includes at least one of the following: credit insurance, finance agreements

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~~wherein certain accounts receivable comprise credit insurance accounts;~~
~~wherein said credit limits comprise insurance policy limits; and~~
~~wherein said various criteria comprise said credit insurance policy~~
~~criteria.~~

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3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim <u>1, wherein at least some of</u>
<u>the third party financing comprises insurance provided by third parties, in</u>
<u>which case the credit limits applicable to accounts receivables comprises</u>
<u>insurance policy limits.</u>
~~2, wherein invoices are tested to assure compliance with the terms and~~
10 ~~conditions of an insurance policy whether or not the invoices are purchased or~~
~~financed.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, <u>wherein at least some of</u>
15 <u>the third party financing comprises purchase of accounts receivables by third</u>
<u>parties, in which case the credit limits applicable to accounts receivables</u>
<u>comprise amounts of said purchases.</u>
~~wherein said credit limits comprise limits defined by financing~~
~~agreements with financial institutions ; and~~
20 ~~wherein said various criteria comprise criteria defined by said financing~~
~~agreements.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, <u>the vendors being of at</u>
<u>least one of the following types: manufacturers, exporters, traders.</u>
25 ~~wherein said invoice data entry system inputs, sorts, and processes data~~
~~provided in various formats to convert said data into a system format; and~~
~~wherein said invoices and data entry system optionally extracts said~~
~~data from a data source.~~

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6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, <u>the credit limits database</u>
<u>configured to repeatedly update the credit limits to according to new</u>
<u>information from the third parties financiers.</u>
~~wherein:~~

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~~the credit limits database is updated with information provided by a credit insurance underwriter, and/or by a commitment to finance said particular pre-qualified buyer by said financial institution.~~

5 7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

<u>a filter to access the accounts receivable database and identify invoices meeting predetermined criteria as to eligibility of the invoices for participation in future third party financing.</u>

~~a filter for providing a user selection of which of any individual invoices~~

10 ~~are to be the subject of a sale or financing to said financial institution.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a reports generator to provide reports of at least one of the following types: ~~for providing particular information regarding any information stored~~

15 ~~in the accounts receivable database.~~

invoice aging report, invoice past due report, invoice activity report, invoices sold report, remittance history report, remittance detail report, borrowing base report, exporter credit limits report, country credit limits report, buyer credit limits report, policy premium report.

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9. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a payment/credit utility performing substantially real time updating of the credit limits database and accounts receivable database responsive to notification of activities including the following: collections from the specified

25 buyers upon stored invoices, remittances made to financing entities upon stored invoices, third party financing of any previously un-financed invoices.

~~a payments and credits utility connected to the accounts receivable database and the credit limits database for providing a collection record and remittance to said financial institution whenever a payment is received from~~

30 ~~said particular pre-qualified buyer for said individual invoice in the accounts receivable database.~~

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10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, the credit limits tester includes at least one of the following:

a buyer-limit tester to determine a total amount of all third party financing of accounts receivable of a specified buyer;

5   a country-limit tester to determine a total amount of all third party financing of accounts receivables for buyers of a specified country;

a policy-limit tester to check a total amount of third party financing issued by a specified third party financier;

a ship-date tester to verify that shipping date of an invoice falls within

10   terms of a specified third party financing arrangement;

a payment-terms tester to determine a maximum permitted number of open account days a given invoice date;

a past-due tester to determine whether any of the following is exceeded for a given third party financing arrangement: past due date,

15   amount.

~~wherein:~~

~~the credit limits database can be maintained at an Internet server site which is remote from said manufacturer, trader, or exporter and that is accessed via the Internet with a browser.~~

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11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein:

at least one of the following components are implemented at an Internet-accessible server site physically remote from the third party

25   financiers: the accounts receivable database, the credit limits database, the credit limits tester, the payment/credit utility.

~~the invoice data entry system can be maintained at an Internet server site which is remote from said manufacturer, trader, or exporter and that is accessed via the Internet with a browser.~~

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12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein:

the credit limits database is constructed from data including financing terms supplied by third party financiers.

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~~the accounts receivable database can be maintained at an Internet server site which is remote from said manufacturer, trader, or exporter and that is accessed via the Internet with a browser.~~

5   13.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a vendor-buyer database containing specified types of information about the vendors and buyers;

an add/update module to supplement entry of new invoices with applicable information from the vendor-buyer database.

10   ~~wherein:~~

~~the credit-limits database, the invoice data entry system, and the accounts receivable database can all be maintained at an Internet server site which is remote from said manufacturer, trader, or exporter and that is accessed via the Internet with a browser.~~

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14.   (Currently Amended) A client/server multi-user trade finance system for assisting <u>vendors</u> ~~manufacturers, traders, and exporters~~ in providing ~~key~~ trade finance information to <u>finance intermediaries</u> ~~credit insurance underwriters, insurance brokers, and financial institutions~~ that have ~~extended~~

20   accounts receivable financing, comprising:

a <u>vendor-buyer</u> ~~manufacturer/trader/exporter and buyer~~ information database, a credit limits information database, an accounts receivable payments and adjustments input system, an eligible invoice filter, a remittances manager, and a report generator;

25   <u>wherein one or more components of the trade finance system are programmed to perform operations comprising:</u>

<u>responsive to one of the vendors entering an accounts receivable financing arrangement with a finance intermediary, providing real-time rule-checking of invoices according to</u>

30   <u>predetermined rules pertaining to at least one of the following: financing specific limits, buyer limits, country limits;</u>

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responsive to collections being received, freeing credit capacity for particular policies, buyers, and destination countries;

transmitting representative remittances to said financial entities.

5 ~~wherein, after a manufacturer/trader/exporter prearranges a credit insurance policy with a credit insurance underwriter and/or financing arrangement with a financial institution, the trade finance system provides realtime rule-checking of invoices according to policy/ financing agreement, buyer, and destination country limits, and as collections are received credit

10 capacity is freed up for particular policies, buyers, and destination countries. Remittances are immediately sent to said financial institution.~~

15. (Currently Amended) An Internet-based trade finance automation system, comprising:

15 an Internet server based on a database engine with a plurality of stored procedures and a data repository;

a credit-limits database included in said data repository for providing certain accounts receivable financing limit information related to a particular pre-qualified buyer of a vendor; ~~manufacturer, trader, or exporter;~~

20 an invoice data entry system included as one of said stored procedures and that accesses the credit-limits database and flags an individual invoice to said particular pre-qualified buyer according to said accounts receivable financing limit information; and

an accounts receivable database included in said data repository

25 connected to receive said individual invoice;

wherein, if said individual invoice in the accounts receivable database meets the credit insurance policy/financing agreement criteria and is sold to or financed by a financial institution, the credit-limits database is automatically adjusted to reflect an open account to said particular pre-qualified buyer.

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16. (Currently Amended) A trade finance automation process, comprising:

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operating an accounts receivable database to receive and store
invoices issued by one or more prescribed vendors for sales made to
specified buyers;

maintaining a credit limits database containing various credit limits

5   applicable to buyers' accounts receivables that are subject to existing third
party financing, the credit limits dictated by factors including terms of said third
party financing;

performing substantially real time checking of buyers' invoices in the
accounts receivable database to ensure compliance with the credit limits set

10   forth in the credit limits database for said buyers.
~~The system of claim 15, wherein a user's PC communicates with a centralized
server over an Internet connection and uses a combination of HTML, browser-
resident programs using ActiveX, Active Document, Java, or similar technical
platforms and stand-alone utilities that are installed on the user's PC so new~~

15   ~~versions of an interface program can be automatically downloaded from the
centralized server over said Internet connection.~~

17.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the credit limits
include credit limits of at least one of the following types: amount of account

20   receivables purchased, credit insurance policy terms, finance agreement
terms.
~~The system of claim 15, wherein a database engine is installed on a user's PC
and a central server includes a data repository, and an Internet connection,
and client data can be uploaded to the central server and thereafter passed to~~

25   ~~financial institutions and underwriters.~~

18.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein at least some
of the third party financing comprises at least one of the following:

insurance provided by third parties, in which case the credit limits

30   applicable to accounts receivables comprises insurance policy limits.

purchase of accounts receivables by third parties, in which case the
credit limits applicable to accounts receivables comprise amounts of said
purchases.

~~The system of claim 15, wherein a primary Web location is connected to a fall-back secondary location via a point-to-point connection so data synchronization can be constantly provided, and a web-site availability monitor allows an adjustment of routing tables associated with a primary~~

5   ~~logon web-site presence, and a primary web-server responds to client logons and directs traffic and interactions with one of several primary client-servers 616-618 physically located nearby.~~

19.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

10   accessing the accounts receivable database and identifying invoices meeting predetermined criteria as to eligibility of the invoices for participation in future third party financing.

~~The system of claim 18, further wherein a fall-back logon web-site presence is physically associated with several fallback severs, and said point-to-point~~

15   ~~connection allows the primary logon web-site presence to directly access the fallback severs.~~

20.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

            generating reports of at least one of the following types: invoice aging

20   report, invoice past due report, invoice activity report, invoices sold report, remittance history report, remittance detail report, borrowing base report, exporter credit limits report, country credit limits report, buyer credit limits report, policy premium report.

~~The system of claim 19, further wherein said point-to-point connection allows~~

25   ~~the fallback logon web-site presence to directly access the primary client severs.~~

21.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

            performing substantially real time updating of the credit limits database

30   and accounts receivable database responsive to notification of activities including the following: collections from the specified buyers upon stored invoices, remittances made to financing entities upon stored invoices, third party financing of any previously un-financed invoices."

~~The system of claim 20, further comprising:~~

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~~a fallback web-site-availability monitor that allows an adjustment of routing tables associated with the fallback logon web-site-presence.~~

22.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, the credit limits tester includes at least one of the following:

a buyer-limit tester to determine a total amount of all third party financing of accounts receivable of a specified buyer;

a country-limit tester to determine a total amount of all third party financing of accounts receivables for buyers of a specified country;

a policy-limit tester to check a total amount of third party financing issued by a specified third party financier;

a ship-date tester to verify that shipping date of an invoice falls within terms of a specified third party financing arrangement;

a payment-terms tester to determine a maximum permitted number of open account days a given invoice date;

a past-due tester to determine whether any of the following is exceeded for a given third party financing arrangement: past due date, amount.

~~The system of claim 20, wherein as any primary server becomes unavailable, clients are automatically redirected to a matching backup server~~

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